AUG/SEP NEWS

MY NEWSLETTER

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BRIEF RECAP:

So here we are. Thankfully since my last update I haven't lived the most action packed life, and that's for the best. The main piece of news that will get its own section is I decided to continue my international travels and visited my dear friend Roshan in Frankfurt (as well as Berlin for a bit). I'm also writing this the day before I'm going to Martha's Vineyard for my cousin's wedding! For those unaware, this is on my dad's side where it's a large Irish-Italian family so it's always eventful. I had missed the last cousin marriage due to being in Panama so it's been a long time coming for me at least. Besides this, much of life is the same as it ever was. One thing I learned for the wedding is how much dry cleaning can cost. For the suit, pants, and shirt it ran me about $30! I do love the business, though. My father has been going there for awhile so they know are name, and it's close. The owners are from Korea and once gave us some of the kimchi they made which is probably the coolest thing I've ever gotten from a dry cleaner. You could tell it was better than what you'd normally get at a store, and it keeps forever so I was going at it for over a month. The moral of this story is, befriend everyone that you meet so that you can sometimes get random gifts from around the globe.

THE WEDDING

Since writing that first bit I went to my aforementioned cousin's wedding. As mentioned before, it was nice seeing my extended family again. Cousins are interesting because you will end up seeing them throughout both of your lives, and you're both like ¼ the same. It's not looking into a mirror, but it's almost a kaleidoscope of people you could be, people you were, and everything in between. I'll never forget another side of the family being able to recognize the quarter heritage we shared

RANDOM Q:

Do people really dislike the cold that much? I can't lie I am a big fan of it. Maybe because I hate seeing bugs in the house but it also is often much more comfortable than the oppressive heat. Also, it's a lot easier to bundle up than take off clothing if you're too cold vs too hot. Anyways that's my little rant on this. Big fan of the cold, I'm excited for winter (if we'll still be getting those)

HOW WAS GERMANY?

The first thing that struck me about Germany is that the airport had a smoking section indoors, something I've only seen in Vegas (same airport with slots at your boarding gate). After managing to figure out the stop I needed I found myself in the middle of Frankfurt and pretty promptly took a nap in the park. I later learned that this park was apparently one of the sketchiest in all of Frankfurt which honestly speaks to how well maintained the city is. Finally around 4 Roshan (mentioned above) got out of class and we met in person for the first time which is always meaningful. I often think about how random the connection between us is. Long time listeners will know my habit of making friends with my friends' friends, so it feels very full circle visiting an Iranian who lives in Germany as a half Mexican American, I'd safely bet that hasn't happened more than 500 times ever. I spent they days I had there wandering the scenic city while she was becoming a doctor or something along those lines. For dinner, Roshan would use this app I have not seen in the US in order to get random, pretty damn good deals at restaurants across the city from Chinese stews to Slavic dumplings. The crown jewel of the trip was going to Berlin for the final days. I do seem to be higher on Frankfurt than many people, but I have to say that Berlin is a much more happening place. First off, I was jealous that the train was that easy to book and get on; we were there more or less on time and it was only around $40. My favorite part of Berlin was visiting the East Side Gallery, I can be a sucker for Cold War history and I remember speaking with my dad once a few years ago, and we did the math and during his life ½ of it was spent with an East/West Berlin, and the other half unified. Anyways, there was also a minor amount of clubbing as one does. Sadly, I have to confess I don't always handle loud noises and flashing lights well. This concert/rave/event was being held on the outskirts of town, in an abandoned factory as God intended. I went back into the city and explored the library when we met back up again. We got some food and went to some bars and by then it was around 1:30 AM and with a train ride coming at 6:30 it felt like the right idea to get some shuteye. Bright and early at 6:30, I said goodbye to Berlin and got to again enjoy a robust transit system with a 3 hr train ride from Berlin to Frankfurt which was only around $50 for a quite nice train. It's always a treat to "meet" a friend for the first time, and I was more than pleasantly surprised with how I enjoyed Germany.